Graduate student profile:

Nishant Singh

Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, 2nd year,
Andrade Lab

Previous degrees:
BS in Ecology & Evolution from the
University of Pittsburgh

Tell us about your research at UTSC:
I study personality in black widow spiders!
I'm probing for signals of social evolution
between two populations. Specifically, I assess population level differences in individual
behavior and ask how differing environmental stressors between populations can influence
evolutionary trajectories.

Tell us about why you chose your graduate program or lab:
I chose to come to UTSC for an incredible advisor, Maydianne Andrade, who performs
fascinating research in behavioral ecology and is passionate about creating a dialogue about
unconscious bias and representation in higher education.

Tell us about any fellowships you hold / have held in grad school:
I currently hold the Ontario Trillium Scholarship

What are your future career goals and how has your graduate work set you up to achieve those goals?
Some of the most rewarding aspects of my graduate career thus far are learning how to
navigate a large body of literature to ask critical questions that work to move knowledge
forward, and managing and analyzing complicated datasets. I would love to use these skills to
inform policy decisions (environmental, equity, etc.) in a data science/research role.

Tell us about life in Toronto:
Having a top tier university in the backdrop of an equally esteemed city creates a unique
graduate experience. It allows one to be involved in active critical discourse with a set of minds
incredibly diverse in perspective and lived experience, thus elevating the efficacy of our own
graduate work. Also, the food here is INCREDIBLE.

Complete the sentence:
In my free time I like……… to DANCE

Do you have any advice for prospective students?
You made it into graduate school for a reason, your opinions are valid, voice them!